



# AUSTIN

## Early Childhood Council

Critical Topics

2017

### District 1: Ora Houston

## Young Children Need Stability

On the Early Childhood Council, we are focused on one of the most important elements in a young child's life — Stability.

- High-quality early education helps children enter school ready to learn if they receive it continuously over time.
- Many children in Austin's low-income families experience "churning" from changes in housing, schools, parents' jobs, and child care.
- When they move in and out of early education settings, they lose many of the benefits, and so does the community.
- When students start school behind their peers, it is very difficult for them to "catch up."

Information in this brochure was provided by the United Way for Greater Austin and the E3 Alliance.

## Children Need Action by the City

Austin is home to nearly 70,000 children under age 6. Almost half of them live in low-income families, even though their parents are often employed.

According to data from E3 Alliance, about 42% of Travis County children are not prepared when they enter kindergarten. And children who are not prepared for kindergarten are at high risk for future school failure.

Stable, high-quality childcare can make all the difference for these children.

But there is a severe shortage of affordable and available high quality child care in our city. Many centers have long waiting lists, and their cost is a significant barrier if spaces ever do become available.

### The Early Childhood Council urges the City of Austin to give priority to two goals:

1. Improve the economic stability of families with young children by promoting job and housing security.
2. Dramatically improve the quality and quantity of early education and child care centers available to low-income families across the city

*Our vision for Austin is a city where young children from all economic backgrounds have access to continuous high quality early education at a young age and experience little disruption of services throughout their childhood.*

## Information about District 1:

In the City of Austin, District 1 has the second largest population of young children coping with the challenges of income insecurity and instability. And while it has a relatively large number of "high quality" child-care facilities (11), it is still woefully inadequate given the size of the at-risk population in the district.



**REMEMBER:** Community spending on high-quality early childhood programs is not an "expense" – it is an investment.

High-quality early education reduces the costs of remedial education and school failure.

Every dollar a community invests in high-quality early childhood programs yields both short-term and long-term savings of about \$18 for that community.

Helping to create stability and security for young children in poverty today could save Austin taxpayers millions of dollars.

Investing in young children isn't just the right thing to do—it is the fiscally-responsible thing to do.

## District 1 Vital Statistics:

*Approximate Number of children under the age of 6 living in District 1 —*

**7,900**

*Percentage of young children in District 1 from low-income families —*

**71%**

*Approximate number of young children from low-income families in District 1 —*

**5,600**

*Percent of the City's children who live in District 1 —*

**11%**

*Percent of the City's children from low-income families currently residing in District 1 —*

**17%**



### School Readiness and Family Income

Young children who live with financial insecurity are at great risk for failure in school. In fact the best predictor of success in school is family income and stability.

Children from more affluent families typically come to school with essential knowledge and skills that children from low-income backgrounds so often don't have. And children from more affluent families tend to have very consistent attendance at the same school year after year, while children from low-income families very often change schools and struggle with academic and emotional instability.

While stable enrollment in high-quality child-care centers clearly helps to close this gap, many families simply cannot afford consistent enrollment in these centers. The average annual tuition at an Austin-area child-care facility is comparable to the annual tuition at The University of Texas.

Without help from you, thousands of Austin-area children will not get the foundation they need.

***Our estimate of the number of young children living in District 1 who will not be ready for kindergarten —***

**2,400**

***Number of Child Care and Education Centers in District 1 —***

**40**

***Number of Child Care and Education Centers in District 1 that are 4-Star or Nationally Accredited —***

**11**

### Promoting Access and Stability in High-Quality Childcare

There is a critical shortage of Early Child Care and Education Centers in Austin, but the shortage of 4-Star or Nationally Accredited child-care centers is unacceptable.

There are very few "high quality" child-care and learning centers in Austin, and the few that do exist have almost no openings for new enrollment. Current subsidies for low-income children are below market rate, so even if families do manage to enroll their children into a "high quality" center, they often must subsequently withdraw their child because they lose their job or their housing. And enrolling their child into another "high quality" center is nearly impossible.

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### District 2: Delia Garza

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## Information about District 2:

District 2 has a critical shortage of child-care and education centers. Arguably the largest gap between supply and demand in the City of Austin. Right now, there is only one childcare and education center for every 520 children who live in the district. And only 2 of the child-care centers in District 2 are accredited "high quality" centers.



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## District 2 Vital Statistics:

*Approximate Number of children under the age of 6 living in District 2 —*

**7,300**

*Percentage of young children in District 2 from low-income families —*

**67%**

*Approximate number of young children from low-income families in District 2 —*

**4,900**

*Percent of the City's children who live in District 2 —*

**11%**

*Percent of the City's children from low-income families currently residing in District 2 —*

**15%**



### School Readiness and Family Income

Young children who live with financial insecurity are at great risk for failure in school. In fact the best predictor of success in school is family income and stability.

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***Our estimate of the number of young children living in District 2 who will not be ready for kindergarten —***

**2,100**

***Number of Child Care and Education Centers in District 2 —***

**14**

***Number of Child Care and Education Centers in District 2 that are 4-Star or Nationally Accredited —***

**2**

### Promoting Access and Stability in High-Quality Childcare

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### District 3: Sabino Renteria

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## Information about District 3:

District 3 has one of the highest rates of children living with income instability in the City of Austin. And there is a critical shortage of childcare and education centers in District 3 with only 1 childcare center for every 300 children.



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## District 3 Vital Statistics:

*Approximate Number of children under the age of 6 living in District 3 —*

**7,400**

*Percentage of young children in District 3 from low-income families —*

**77%**

*Approximate number of young children from low-income families in District 3 —*

**5,600**

*Percent of the City's children who live in District 3 —*

**11%**

*Percent of the City's children from low-income families currently residing in District 3 —*

**17%**



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***Our estimate of the number of young children living in District 3 who will not be ready for kindergarten —***

**2,400**

***Number of Child Care and Education Centers in District 3 —***

**24**

***Number of Child Care and Education Centers in District 3 that are 4-Star or Nationally Accredited —***

**11**

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### District 4: Gregorio Cesar

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## Information about District 4:

District 4 is home to nearly 1 out of every 4 of Austin's children living in low-income families. However, despite this enormous population of low-income children living with insecurity, there is also a critical shortage of early childcare and education centers in District 4. Currently in District 4, there is only one childcare center for every 500 children who live in the district.



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## District 4 Vital Statistics:

*Approximate Number of children under the age of 6 living in District 4 —*

**9,300**

*Percentage of young children in District 4 from low-income families —*

**78%**

*Approximate number of young children from low-income families in District 4 —*

**7,200**

*Percent of the City's children who live in District 4 —*

**14%**

*Percent of the City's children from low-income families currently residing in District 4 —*

**22%**



### School Readiness and Family Income

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***Our estimate of the number of young children living in District 4 who will not be ready for kindergarten —***

**3,000**

***Number of Child Care and Education Centers in District 4 —***

**18**

***Number of Child Care and Education Centers in District 4 that are 4-Star or Nationally Accredited —***

**3**

### Promoting Access and Stability in High-Quality Childcare

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Critical Topics

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### District 5: Ann Kitchen

## Young Children Need Stability

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## Information about District 5:

District 5 is the only Council District in the City of Austin that does not have a single 4-Star or Nationally Accredited childcare center.



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## District 5 Vital Statistics:

***Approximate Number of children under the age of 6 living in District 5 —***

**6,000**

***Percentage of young children in District 5 from low-income families —***

**36%**

***Approximate number of young children from low-income families in District 5 —***

**2,100**

***Percent of the City's children who live in District 5 —***

**9%**

***Percent of the City's children from low-income families currently residing in District 5 —***

**6%**



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***Our estimate of the number of young children living in District 5 who will not be ready for kindergarten —***

**900**

***Number of Child Care and Education Centers in District 5 —***

**39**

***Number of Child Care and Education Centers in District 5 that are 4-Star or Nationally Accredited —***

**-**

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### District 6: James Flannigan

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## Information about District 6:

District 6 has a critical shortage of child-care and education centers. While it has one of the largest populations of young children in the City, it contains very few child-care and education centers. Currently, there is only one child-care center for every 700 children living in the district.



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## District 6 Vital Statistics:

***Approximate Number of children under the age of 6 living in District 6 —***

**7,700**

***Percentage of young children in District 6 from low-income families —***

**22%**

***Approximate number of young children from low-income families in District 6 —***

**1,700**

***Percent of the City's children who live in District 6 —***

**11%**

***Percent of the City's children from low-income families currently residing in District 6 —***

**5%**



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***Our estimate of the number of young children living in District 6 who will not be ready for kindergarten —***

**700**

***Number of Child Care and Education Centers in District 6 —***

**10**

***Number of Child Care and Education Centers in District 6 that are 4-Star or Nationally Accredited —***

**2**

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### District 7: Leslie Pool

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## Information about District 7:

There are more child-care and education centers in District 7 than any other District in the City. This helps to promote stability and security for young children living in District 7.



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## District 7 Vital Statistics:

***Approximate Number of children under the age of 6 living in District 7 —***

**7,600**

***Percentage of young children in District 7 from low-income families —***

**38%**

***Approximate number of young children from low-income families in District 7 —***

**2,900**

***Percent of the City's children who live in District 7 —***

**11%**

***Percent of the City's children from low-income families currently residing in District 7 —***

**9%**



### School Readiness and Family Income

Young children who live with financial insecurity are at great risk for failure in school. In fact the best predictor of success in school is family income and stability.

Children from more affluent families typically come to school with essential knowledge and skills that children from low-income backgrounds so often don't have. And children from more affluent families tend to have very consistent attendance at the same school year after year, while children from low-income families very often change schools and struggle with academic and emotional instability.

While stable enrollment in high-quality child-care centers clearly helps to close this gap, many families simply cannot afford consistent enrollment in these centers. The average annual tuition at an Austin-area child-care facility is comparable to the annual tuition at The University of Texas.

Without help from you, thousands of Austin-area children will not get the foundation they need.

***Our estimate of the number of young children living in District 7 who will not be ready for kindergarten —***

**1,200**

***Number of Child Care and Education Centers in District 7 —***

**51**

***Number of Child Care and Education Centers in District 7 that are 4-Star or Nationally Accredited —***

**9**

### Promoting Access and Stability in High-Quality Childcare

There is a critical shortage of Early Child Care and Education Centers in Austin, but the shortage of 4-Star or Nationally Accredited child-care centers is unacceptable.

There are very few "high quality" child-care and learning centers in Austin, and the few that do exist have almost no openings for new enrollment. Current subsidies for low-income children are below market rate, so even if families do manage to enroll their children into a "high quality" center, they often must subsequently withdraw their child because they lose their job or their housing. And enrolling their child into another "high quality" center is nearly impossible.

**As a City leader, you can help by investing in child care and promoting stability in the lives of families with young children. This is an investment in Austin's future.**



# AUSTIN

## Early Childhood Council

Critical Topics

2017

### District 8: Ellen Troxclair

## Young Children Need Stability

On the Early Childhood Council, we are focused on one of the most important elements in a young child's life — Stability.

- High-quality early education helps children enter school ready to learn if they receive it continuously over time.
- Many children in Austin's low-income families experience "churning" from changes in housing, schools, parents' jobs, and child care.
- When they move in and out of early education settings, they lose many of the benefits, and so does the community.
- When students start school behind their peers, it is very difficult for them to "catch up."

Information in this brochure was provided by the United Way for Greater Austin and the E3 Alliance.

## Children Need Action by the City

Austin is home to nearly 70,000 children under age 6. Almost half of them live in low-income families, even though their parents are often employed.

According to data from E3 Alliance, about 42% of Travis County children are not prepared when they enter kindergarten. And children who are not prepared for kindergarten are at high risk for future school failure.

Stable, high-quality childcare can make all the difference for these children.

But there is a severe shortage of affordable and available high quality child care in our city. Many centers have long waiting lists, and their cost is a significant barrier if spaces ever do become available.

### The Early Childhood Council urges the City of Austin to give priority to two goals:

1. Improve the economic stability of families with young children by promoting job and housing security.
2. Dramatically improve the quality and quantity of early education and child care centers available to low-income families across the city

*Our vision for Austin is a city where young children from all economic backgrounds have access to continuous high quality early education at a young age and experience little disruption of services throughout their childhood.*

## Information about District 8:

District 8 has the second lowest rate of low-income youth in the City of Austin, but even so, over 1,000 of the children in District 8 under the age of 6 are living with the challenges and insecurities that children in low-income families must deal with.



**REMEMBER:** Community spending on high-quality early childhood programs is not an "expense" – it is an investment.

High-quality early education reduces the costs of remedial education and school failure.

Every dollar a community invests in high-quality early childhood programs yields both short-term and long-term savings of about \$18 for that community.

Helping to create stability and security for young children in poverty today could save Austin taxpayers millions of dollars.

Investing in young children isn't just the right thing to do—it is the fiscally-responsible thing to do.

## District 8 Vital Statistics:

*Approximate Number of children under the age of 6 living in District 8 —*

**6,500**

*Percentage of young children in District 8 from low-income families —*

**17%**

*Approximate number of young children from low-income families in District 8 —*

**1,100**

*Percent of the City's children who live in District 8 —*

**9%**

*Percent of the City's children from low-income families currently residing in District 8 —*

**3%**



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***Our estimate of the number of young children living in District 8 who will not be ready for kindergarten —***

**500**

***Number of Child Care and Education Centers in District 8 —***

**36**

***Number of Child Care and Education Centers in District 8 that are 4-Star or Nationally Accredited —***

**6**

### Promoting Access and Stability in High-Quality Childcare

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# AUSTIN

## Early Childhood Council

Critical Topics

2017

### District 9: Kathie Tovo

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## Information about District 9:

District 9 has the smallest population of young children in the City, but even so, nearly 1,000 of them come from low-income families and deal with corresponding insecurity and instability.



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## District 9 Vital Statistics:

***Approximate Number of children under the age of 6 living in District 9 —***

**3,300**

***Percentage of young children in District 9 from low-income families —***

**28%**

***Approximate number of young children from low-income families in District 9 —***

**900**

***Percent of the City's children who live in District 9 —***

**5%**

***Percent of the City's children from low-income families currently residing in District 9 —***

**3%**



### School Readiness and Family Income

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***Our estimate of the number of young children living in District 9 who will not be ready for kindergarten —***

**400**

***Number of Child Care and Education Centers in District 9 —***

**30**

***Number of Child Care and Education Centers in District 9 that are 4-Star or Nationally Accredited —***

**7**

### Promoting Access and Stability in High-Quality Childcare

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# AUSTIN

## Early Childhood Council

Critical Topics

2017

### District 10: Alison Alter

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## Information about District 10:

District 10 has the lowest rate of low-income youth in the City of Austin.



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## District 10 Vital Statistics:

***Approximate Number of children under the age of 6 living in District 10 —***

**5,700**

***Percentage of young children in District 10 from low-income families —***

**14%**

***Approximate number of young children from low-income families in District 10 —***

**800**

***Percent of the City's children who live in District 10 —***

**8%**

***Percent of the City's children from low-income families currently residing in District 10 —***

**2%**



### School Readiness and Family Income

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***Our estimate of the number of young children living in District 10 who will not be ready for kindergarten —***

**300**

***Number of Child Care and Education Centers in District 10 —***

**36**

***Number of Child Care and Education Centers in District 10 that are 4-Star or Nationally Accredited —***

**2**

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